

Filed for intro on 01/28/2002
SENATE BILL 2617 By
Cooper J

HOUSE BILL 2635
By McDaniel

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 2; Title 68, Chapter 11 and Title 71, relative to nursing homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following new section:

(_) In an effort to eliminate duplication of effort, the Tennessee department of human services, division of adult protective services, shall forward allegations of abuse and neglect of nursing home patients to the Tennessee department of health, division of health care facilities, for investigation and resolution.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, is amended by adding the following new section:

(_) The Tennessee department of health, division of health care facilities shall develop a plan for improving recruitment and retention of health care facility inspectors (surveyors). As part of the plan, the department shall assure that each newly hired nursing home inspector, as part of his or her basic training, is assigned full-time to a

licensed nursing home for at least ten (10) days within a 14-day period to observe actual operations outside of the survey process before the trainee begins oversight responsibilities. The department shall also identify and utilize other training techniques that assist facility surveyors in better understanding the type(s) of facilities they inspect.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

(_) The Tennessee board of regents shall develop a certified nursing assistant career development curriculum in coordination with the Tennessee Health Care Association. Such curriculum shall encourage compatibility with other health professional curriculums so as to facilitate an individual's professional development while a certified nursing assistant and transition to other professions used in the provision of nursing home services.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.